

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 1, 2013

**SENATE BILL**

**No. 540**

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**Introduced by Senator Wyland**

February 22, 2013

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An act to ~~amend Section 51225.3 of~~ *add Section 52377.3 to the Education Code, relating to high school graduation requirements career technical education.*

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 540, as amended, Wyland. ~~High school graduation requirements.~~  
*Career technical education: recognition certificates.*

*Existing law authorizes a school district to issue diplomas or certificates evidencing the completion of a prescribed course of study following a pupil's satisfactory completion of that course of study.*

*This bill would authorize a school district or county office of education to award a pupil a career technical education certificate if the pupil meets specified requirements, including satisfactory completion of 4 semester-long career technical education courses, a structured work-based learning experience, and a related culminating project. The bill would prohibit the award of a career technical education certificate awarded under the bill from being construed as equivalent to the award of a high school diploma or as a change to the statutory curriculum or compulsory education requirements.*

~~Existing law requires a pupil to complete specified courses while in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of graduation from high school.~~

~~This bill would make nonsubstantive changes to this provision.~~

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.  
State-mandated local program: no.

*The people of the State of California do enact as follows:*

1     SECTION 1. Section 52377.3 is added to the Education Code,  
2     to read:

3     52377.3. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district  
4     or county office of education may award a pupil a career technical  
5     education certificate if all of the following requirements are met:

6     (1) The pupil has satisfactorily completed four semester-long  
7     career technical education courses. To the extent possible, the  
8     courses shall be within the same industry sector as identified in  
9     the California Career Technical Education Model Curriculum  
10    standards adopted by the state board.

11    (2) The pupil has satisfactorily participated in a structured  
12    work-based learning experience related to the career technical  
13    education courses.

14    (3) The pupil has satisfactorily completed a culminating project  
15    related to the career technical education courses.

16    (b) The award of a career technical education certificate under  
17    this section shall in no way be construed as equivalent to the award  
18    of a high school diploma or as a change to the requirements of  
19    Section 48200 or 51225.3.

20    ~~SECTION 1. Section 51225.3 of the Education Code, as~~  
21    ~~amended by Section 3 of Chapter 621 of the Statutes of 2011, is~~  
22    ~~amended to read:~~

23    ~~51225.3. (a) A pupil shall complete all of the following while~~  
24    ~~in grades 9 to 12, inclusive, in order to receive a diploma of~~  
25    ~~graduation from high school:~~

26    ~~(1) At least the following numbers of courses in the subjects~~  
27    ~~specified, each course having a duration of one year, unless~~  
28    ~~otherwise specified:~~

29    ~~(A) Three courses in English.~~

30    ~~(B) Two courses in mathematics.~~

31    ~~(C) Two courses in science, including biological and physical~~  
32    ~~sciences.~~

33    ~~(D) Three courses in social studies, including United States~~  
34    ~~history and geography; world history, culture, and geography; a~~  
35    ~~one-semester course in American government and civics; and a~~  
36    ~~one-semester course in economics.~~

1     ~~(E) One course in visual or performing arts, foreign language,~~  
2     ~~or, commencing with the 2012–13 school year, career technical~~  
3     ~~education.~~

4     ~~(i) For purposes of satisfying the requirement specified in this~~  
5     ~~subparagraph, a course in American Sign Language shall be~~  
6     ~~deemed a course in foreign language.~~

7     ~~(ii) For purposes of this subparagraph, “a course in career~~  
8     ~~technical education” means a course in a district-operated career~~  
9     ~~technical education program that is aligned to the career technical~~  
10    ~~model curriculum standards and framework adopted by the state~~  
11    ~~board, including courses through a regional occupational center~~  
12    ~~or program operated by a county superintendent of schools or~~  
13    ~~pursuant to a joint powers agreement.~~

14    ~~(iii) This subparagraph does not require a school or school~~  
15    ~~district that currently does not offer career technical education~~  
16    ~~courses to start new career technical education programs for~~  
17    ~~purposes of this section.~~

18    ~~(iv) If a school district or county office of education elects to~~  
19    ~~allow a career technical education course to satisfy the requirement~~  
20    ~~imposed by this subparagraph, the governing board of the school~~  
21    ~~district or county office of education, before offering that~~  
22    ~~alternative to pupils, shall notify parents, teachers, pupils, and the~~  
23    ~~public at a regularly scheduled meeting of the governing board of~~  
24    ~~all of the following:~~

25    ~~(I) The intent to offer career technical education courses to fulfill~~  
26    ~~the graduation requirement specified in this subparagraph.~~

27    ~~(II) The impact that offering career technical education courses,~~  
28    ~~pursuant to this subparagraph, will have on the availability of~~  
29    ~~courses that meet the eligibility requirements for admission to the~~  
30    ~~California State University and the University of California, and~~  
31    ~~whether the career technical education courses to be offered~~  
32    ~~pursuant to this subparagraph are approved to satisfy those~~  
33    ~~eligibility requirements. If a school district elects to allow a career~~  
34    ~~technical education course to satisfy the requirement imposed by~~  
35    ~~this subparagraph, the school district shall comply with subdivision~~  
36    ~~(m) of Section 48980.~~

37    ~~(III) The distinction, if any, between the high school graduation~~  
38    ~~requirements of the school district or county office of education,~~  
39    ~~and the eligibility requirements for admission to the California~~  
40    ~~State University and the University of California.~~

1     ~~(F) Two courses in physical education, unless the pupil has been~~  
2     ~~exempted pursuant to the provisions of this code.~~

3     ~~(2) Other coursework requirements adopted by the governing~~  
4     ~~board of the school district.~~

5     ~~(b) The governing board, with the active involvement of parents,~~  
6     ~~administrators, teachers, and pupils, shall adopt alternative means~~  
7     ~~for pupils to complete the prescribed course of study that may~~  
8     ~~include practical demonstration of skills and competencies;~~  
9     ~~supervised work experience or other outside school experience;~~  
10    ~~career technical education classes offered in high schools, courses~~  
11    ~~offered by regional occupational centers or programs;~~  
12    ~~interdisciplinary study, independent study, and credit earned at a~~  
13    ~~postsecondary educational institution. Requirements for graduation~~  
14    ~~and specified alternative modes for completing the prescribed~~  
15    ~~course of study shall be made available to pupils, parents, and the~~  
16    ~~public.~~

17    ~~(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a school district shall exempt~~  
18    ~~a pupil in foster care from all coursework and other requirements~~  
19    ~~adopted by the governing board of the district that are in addition~~  
20    ~~to the statewide coursework requirements specified in this section~~  
21    ~~if the pupil, while the pupil is in grade 11 or 12, transfers into the~~  
22    ~~district from another school district or between high schools within~~  
23    ~~the district, unless the district makes a finding that the pupil is~~  
24    ~~reasonably able to complete the additional requirements in time~~  
25    ~~to graduate from high school while the pupil remains eligible for~~  
26    ~~foster care benefits pursuant to state law. A school district shall~~  
27    ~~notify a pupil in foster care who is granted an exemption pursuant~~  
28    ~~to this subdivision, and, as appropriate, the person holding the~~  
29    ~~right to make educational decisions for the pupil, if any of the~~  
30    ~~requirements that are waived will affect the pupil's ability to gain~~  
31    ~~admission to a postsecondary educational institution and shall~~  
32    ~~provide information about transfer opportunities available through~~  
33    ~~the California Community Colleges.~~

34    ~~(d) On or before July 1, 2017, the department shall submit a~~  
35    ~~comprehensive report to the appropriate policy committees of the~~  
36    ~~Legislature on the addition of career technical education courses~~  
37    ~~to satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of~~  
38    ~~paragraph (1) of subdivision (a), including, but not limited to, the~~  
39    ~~following information:~~

1     ~~(1) A comparison of the pupil enrollment in career technical~~  
2 ~~education courses, foreign language courses, and visual and~~  
3 ~~performing arts courses for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,~~  
4 ~~inclusive, to the pupil enrollment in career technical education~~  
5 ~~courses, foreign language courses, and visual and performing arts~~  
6 ~~courses for the 2012–13 to 2016–17 school years, inclusive.~~

7     ~~(2) The reasons, reported by school districts, that pupils give~~  
8 ~~for choosing to enroll in a career technical education course to~~  
9 ~~satisfy the requirement specified in subparagraph (E) of paragraph~~  
10 ~~(1) of subdivision (a).~~

11     ~~(3) The type and number of career technical education courses~~  
12 ~~that were conducted for the 2005–06 to 2011–12 school years,~~  
13 ~~inclusive, compared to the type and number of career technical~~  
14 ~~education courses that were conducted for the 2012–13 to 2016–17~~  
15 ~~school years, inclusive.~~

16     ~~(4) The number of career technical education courses that~~  
17 ~~satisfied the subject matter requirements for admission to the~~  
18 ~~University of California or the California State University.~~

19     ~~(5) The extent to which the career technical education courses~~  
20 ~~chosen by pupils are aligned with the California Career Technical~~  
21 ~~Education Standards, and prepare pupils for employment, advanced~~  
22 ~~training, and postsecondary education.~~

23     ~~(6) The number of career technical education courses that also~~  
24 ~~satisfy the visual and performing arts requirement, and the number~~  
25 ~~of career technical education courses that also satisfy the foreign~~  
26 ~~language requirement.~~

27     ~~(7) Annual pupil dropout and graduation rates for the 2011–12~~  
28 ~~to 2014–15 school years, inclusive.~~

29     ~~(e) For purposes of completing the report described in~~  
30 ~~subdivision (d), the Superintendent may use existing state resources~~  
31 ~~and federal funds. If state or federal funds are not available or~~  
32 ~~sufficient, the Superintendent may apply for and accept grants,~~  
33 ~~and receive donations and other financial support from public or~~  
34 ~~private sources for purposes of this section.~~

35     ~~(f) For purposes of completing the report described in~~  
36 ~~subdivision (d), the Superintendent may accept support, including,~~  
37 ~~but not limited to, financial and technical support, from high school~~  
38 ~~reform advocates, teachers, chamber organizations, industry~~  
39 ~~representatives, research centers, parents, and pupils.~~

1     ~~(g) This section shall become inoperative on the earlier of the~~  
2     ~~following two dates:~~

3     ~~(1) On July 1, immediately following the first fiscal year after~~  
4     ~~the enactment of the act that adds this paragraph in which the~~  
5     ~~number of career technical education courses that, as determined~~  
6     ~~by the department, satisfy the foreign language requirement for~~  
7     ~~admission to the California State University and the University of~~  
8     ~~California is at least twice the number of career technical education~~  
9     ~~courses that meet these admission requirements as of January 1,~~  
10    ~~2012. This section shall be repealed on the following January 1,~~  
11    ~~unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before~~  
12    ~~that date, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes~~  
13    ~~inoperative and is repealed. It is the intent of the Legislature that~~  
14    ~~new career technical education courses that satisfy the foreign~~  
15    ~~language requirement for admission to the California State~~  
16    ~~University and the University of California focus on world~~  
17    ~~languages aligned with career preparation, emphasizing real-world~~  
18    ~~application and technical content in related career and technical~~  
19    ~~education courses.~~

20    ~~(2) On July 1, 2017, and, as of January 1, 2018, is repealed,~~  
21    ~~unless a later enacted statute, that becomes operative on or before~~  
22    ~~January 1, 2018, deletes or extends the dates on which it becomes~~  
23    ~~inoperative and is repealed.~~